

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is being submitted in response to the Office Action dated March 10, 2004. Claims 26-30 were previously withdrawn without prejudice and have now been canceled without prejudice by this amendment for prosecution in a related application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 51 are canceled without prejudice by this amendment for prosecution in a Continuation application. Claims 2, 4, 7-10 and 23 have been amended. Claims 2, 4, 7-25, and 31-50 are pending. Applicants respectfully request consideration of claims 2, 4, 7-25, and 31-50 in light of the amendments and remarks made herein. Applicants authorize the Examiner to charge any payment necessary to maintain the application in good standing, to Deposit Account 03-0172, including a \$210.00 payment to cover the fee for a two month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(1).

Drawing Objections

Applicants acknowledges the objection to Figure 9 of the drawings as set forth in the office action. Applicants will provide a substitute drawing page within three months of the mailing of a Notice of Allowability.

Compact Disc Submission

The office action required that the Applicants provide a replacement Compact Disc Submission in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.96(c). Applicants have amended the specification accordingly, and provided the two identical replacement Compact Discs with this Response.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 103(a)

Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' cancellation of claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 51 renders the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 103(a) moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate and acknowledge Examiner's indication that claims 31-50 claim allowable subject matter. Applicants further acknowledge Examiner's indication that claims 7-25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claims 2, 4, 7-10 and 23 to include all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Applicants submit that such amendments place claims 2, 4, and 7-25 in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Entry of this amendment and allowance of claims 2, 4, 7-25 and 31-50 are respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below to discuss any questions regarding the present application or this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

August 10, 2004

Date



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